



Office of the Chief Medical Officer



Innovation Number: 31

Part A. Contact Information

On File

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Poster](#)**Part B. Commander's Information**

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Part C. Categorize Your Innovation

Cost

Part D. Share An Innovative Program**Title of Innovation:** eUCAPERS Automated Personnel Utilization System**Date Submitted:** 10/12/2005**Date Project Initiated:** 01/01/2005

Background: Tripler Army Medical Center is attempting to increase the accuracy of its expense accounting by improving the data submitted to the Army's Uniform Chart of Accounts - Personnel Utilization System (UCAPERS). With staff salaries accounting for a large portion of direct expenses, it is critically important that the salary step down process be based on reliable personnel utilization data. The goal of the eUCAPERS project was to develop a front-end personnel utilization system for providers that would offer an improved user interface, reduce manual processes, automate data entry into native UCAPERS and, most importantly, improve the overall quality of the data. The eUCAPERS system is owned by the AMEDD and can be adopted Army-wide with minor adjustments to its MEPRS program mapping. It may also be possible to modify eUCAPERS for implementation throughout the MHS.

Methods: Tripler Army Medical Center issued a contract for the development of a front-end personnel utilization system called eUCAPERS. The system combines a Microsoft Windows based calendar interface with plain-text menu navigation. Providers no longer have to deal with confusing UCAPERS and MEPRS codes, pay periods, and hard copy timesheets. The system allows users to click on any day in the calendar interface, enter the number of hours, and select the appropriate function and duty area. eUCAPERS also includes several built in data quality features: • Automatic calculation of total hours and percentages • Ability to upload data into native UCAPERS • Error notification for entries that do not conform to established business rules • Ability to offer a customized set of menu options to a specific department, clinic, or provider • Real time reporting tools that allow supervisors to validate data prior to submission Provider feedback has been essential to the development of the eUCAPERS system. Initial testing began with a single clinic. Currently, one-half of all providers are using eUCAPERS with the remaining providers scheduled to be online by the end of the fiscal year.

Results: By easing provider data entry, reducing manual processes and incorporating data quality features, the eUCAPERS system has provided numerous benefits: • Providers report that the system is easy to use and overall feedback has been very positive • Reducing the number of manual processes has minimized the risk of errors and is expected to eventually reduce the requirement for UCAPERS clerical staff by one FTE • Data quality features have already resulted in improvements to the overall accuracy of personnel utilization data

Conclusions: The development of the eUCAPERS system has brought much needed improvement to an error prone, and labor intensive personnel utilization data collection process. When eUCAPERS has been fully implemented, the Command will be able to utilize expense data with increased confidence and make better informed decisions.